

Changes made in the Senate omnibus amendment

Career-technical cooperative education districts

- Permits two or more city, local, or exempted village school districts to enter into an agreement creating a career-technical cooperative education district for the purposes of funding the career-technical education of students enrolled in those school districts in grades seven through twelve.
- Requires services funded by the education district to be available to students enrolled in each member district.
- Permits the agreement to be amended pursuant to the terms and procedures mutually agreed to by the member districts.
- Requires an education district to be governed by a board of directors composed of the superintendents of member districts, who are prohibited from receiving compensation, but may receive reimbursement from the education district's special fund for reasonable and necessary expenses they incur while performing their duties for the district.
- Requires the education district's agreement to provide for the organization, terms of office, and frequency of meetings for the board of directors and the permanent location of the board's offices and meeting place.
- Specifies that the board of directors is:
 - (1) A body corporate and politic that is capable of suing and being sued, contracting within prescribed limits, and accepting gifts, donations, bequests, and other grants of money; and
 - (2) A public body that is subject to the open meetings law.
- Specifies the education district is a public office, its directors are public officials, and that both are subject to the public records law.
- Requires the board of directors to provide for the hiring of employees and to contract with one or more entities, including a school district that is a party to the agreement, an educational service center, or a state institution of higher education to provide career-technical education services.
- Requires the education district's agreement to:
 - Provide for which services will be provided by employees of member districts and which services will be provided by the career-technical cooperative education;
 - Include a statement of how transportation of students to and from school will be provided in the career-technical cooperative education district that includes at least both of the following:
 - (a) How special education students will be transported as required by their Individualized Education Plan (IEP); and
 - (b) Whether transportation to and from school will be provided to any other students of the career-technical cooperative education district, and, if so, the way this transportation will be provided.
- Authorizes the newly created education districts to levy property taxes in the district of up to three mills.
- Requires the board of directors to provide for the creation of a special fund to hold the proceeds of any property tax levy and any gifts, donations, bequests, or other grants of money.
- Requires the education district agreement to provide for the manner of appointing a fiscal officer for the education district and specify other information regarding the officer.
- Requires the prosecuting attorney of the most populous county containing a member district to be the legal advisor of the board of directors and to perform other prescribed legal duties regarding the education district.

- Requires a board of directors to procure liability insurance policies that meet prescribed requirements to insure the board, its fiscal officer, and its legal representative.
- Permits a school district that has most of its territory in the county to join an existing education district. Permits a member district to withdraw from an education district.
- Requires an education district agreement to provide for the manner of the district's dissolution.
- Specifies that an education district is not a joint vocational school district but requires it to be considered a compact career-technical education provider for the purposes of state education law.
- Requires the department to compute and make payments directly to an education district in the same manner as funds calculated for a lead district of a career-technical planning district under continuing law.
- Permits an education district agreement to specify how member districts contribute funding to the education district.
- Specifies that the career-technical cooperative education district is the lead district to provide primary career-technical education leadership within the member districts.
- Requires the department to create an internal retrieval number (IRN) for each career-technical cooperative education district once established.

Vouchers

- Prohibits the department from requiring parents applying for voucher programs to disclose their income.
- Allows private schools to charge tuition above and beyond the voucher amount for any student regardless of income.
- Annually requires voucher schools to report tuition rates for the next school year to the department by June 30
- Extends the voucher application deadline for the full voucher amount from July 1 to October 15. Applications beyond that date will be prorated.
- Allows student living in the Cleveland Municipal School District to use voucher to attend any private school regardless of the school's location.
- Provides a tax credit for contributions to qualifying scholarship granting organizations and allows private schools to accept private scholarships from scholarship granting organizations.
- Increases the category amounts for the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program for FY 2025 (maintains the increased amounts for FY 2024 from the As Passed by the House version of the bill). Increases the maximum voucher award (capped amount) for FY 2025 from \$30,000 to \$32,445.
- Requires the department, in calculating a student's Ed Choice Expansion voucher amount using the logarithmic function formula, to use the family income documentation submitted for the first school year the student has an amount calculated under the formula for that school year and subsequent school years, unless the student's parent requests the department recalculate the amount based on updated documentation for a subsequent school year.
- Requires the department to use the following Ed Choice Expansion voucher amounts for first-time scholarship recipients for the 2023-2024 school year instead of using the logarithmic function formula:
 - (1) For a student at or below 450% of the federal poverty level (FPL), the amount the student would receive if the student was a traditional Ed Choice scholarship recipient;
 - (2) For a student above 450% FPL, but at or below 500% FPL, either \$5,200 for a student in grades K-8 or \$7,050 for a student in grades 9-12;

- (3) For a student above 500% FPL, but at or below 550% FPL, either \$3,650 for a student in grades K-8 or \$5,000 for a student in grades 9-12;
 - (4) For a student above 550% FPL, but at or below 600% FPL, either \$2,600 for a student in grades K-8 or \$3,550 for a student in grades 9-12;
 - (5) For a student above 600% FPL, but at or below 650% FPL, either \$1,850 for a student in grades K-8 or \$2,500 for a student in grades 9-12;
 - (6) For a student above 650% FPL, but at or below 700% FPL, either \$1,300 for a student in grades K-8 or \$1,750 for a student in grades 9-12;
 - (7) For a student above 700% FPL, but at or below 750% FPL, either \$900 for a student in grades K-8 or \$1,250 for a student in grades 9-12;
 - (8) For a student above 750% FPL, either \$650 for a student in grades K-8 or \$950 for a student in grades 9-12.
- Restores a provision of the House-passed version that prohibits a chartered nonpublic school participating in the Ed Choice voucher program from requiring a student's parent to disclose, as part of the school's admission procedure, whether the student's family income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

Manufacturing and Construction Mentorship Program

- Expands the Manufacturing Mentorship Program to expose minors to construction and manufacturing occupations through temporary employment, rather than only manufacturing occupations as under current law.
- Changes the program's name to the "Manufacturing and Construction Mentorship Program."

School funding based on corrected tax year 2021 data

- Allows a county auditor to submit, within 15 days after the provision's effective date, certain corrected school district property tax information for the 2021 tax year and requires the department to use that information to compute state foundation aid for the district.

Transportation

- Prohibits a district from changing its school schedule unless it receives approval from each JVSD, charter school and private school to which it transports students
- Requires districts providing transportation to the greatest number of students at a charter or private school to coordinate school hours with other districts transporting to those schools
- Requires each charter and private school to:
 - Establish start and end times for next school year by April 1 of each year and provide those times to districts transporting their students
 - Provide schools with contact names, phone numbers and email addresses for the summer and upcoming school year and home addresses of enrolled student the district is expected to transport by April 1 of each year
 - Send lists of students requiring transportation to the appropriate school district by the first day of May, July, September, December, March and June
- Requires the department to resolve any disputes over determinations regarding transportation noncompliance received after December 1, 2023, within 30 days of receiving notice of the dispute, or within 45 days if the Department notifies all affected parties in advance that the determination will be delayed.
- Requires the Department to take initial action on mediation regarding declarations of impracticality to provide transportation received after December 1, 2023, within 30 days of receiving the request for mediation, or within 45 days if the Department notifies all affected parties in advance of the delay.

- Requires the department, by December 1, 2023, to process and resolve any disputes that are pending on the bill's effective date regarding:
 - (1) Declarations of impracticality to provide transportation; and
 - (2) Determinations regarding school district noncompliance with transportation obligations.
- Expressly requires the following safety measures, in addition to the general requirements for school drivers, whenever a nine-passenger or less vehicle is used for pupil transportation (for either a school district, charter nonpublic school, or community school):
 1. A qualified mechanic inspects the vehicle at least twice a year to determine that it is safe for pupil transportation;
 2. The driver of the vehicle does not stop on the roadway to load or unload passengers; and
 3. The driver and all passengers in the vehicle comply with the seat belt and child restraint system laws.

Student transportation – noncompliance

- Prohibits operators from delivering students to school late.
- Adds to the definition of "out of compliance" that the reason a student scheduled to be transported to and from school by a school bus was not transported by school bus at all was due to the failure of the bus to arrive.
- Removes the requirement for a district found to be out of compliance to submit a remediation plan to the department.
- Requires the department to disburse the daily amount of transportation payment to the district or school in which the pupil is enrolled, rather than directly to the parents or guardian, or other person in charge of each pupil who did not receive proper transportation.
- Requires the district or school to remit those payments to the parents, guardian, or other person in charge of the pupil.
- The school is then required to remit that amount to the parent, guardian, or other person in charge of each pupil who did not receive proper transportation.

Value added reports

- Requires the department to make individual student performance data reports available to districts and schools that have an overall value-added progress dimension score calculated on the state report card.
- Requires the reports to include data regarding student level percentiles, normal curve equivalents, unique identifiers, and other data each school year that a district or school has an overall value-added progress dimension score calculated.
- Requires the department also to make available data used to calculate the district's or school's overall growth rating.
- Requires the department to make reports available in an electronic spreadsheet form, as soon as practicable each school year.
- Explicitly subjects the amendment's requirements to state and federal student privacy laws.

Educator grade band flexibility

- Permits a school district or charter school to employ an educator to teach not more than two grade levels outside of the grade band designated on the educator's license for not more than two school years at a time, subject to renewal.

Auxiliary Services

- Specifies that, if a school district contracts with an educational service center (ESC) to provide auxiliary services, only the ESC may be reimbursed for administrative costs incurred in providing those services.

Before and After School Care Programs

- Qualifies authorized private before and after school care programs for licenses under the existing school child programs regulated by the department.
- Qualifies a childcare program as an authorized private before and after school care program if the program is for school children only and is operated in a school building by a nonprofit or for-profit private entity under contract with a school district, community school, or eligible nonpublic school.

Property tax sales-assessment ratio studies

- Specifies that a provision added in the Senate substitute bill to revise the data used in property tax-related "sales assessment ratio studies" will apply beginning with the 2023 tax year.
- Requires the tax commissioner to reevaluate 2023 property tax values to comply with the bill's changes and to recertify any updated property tax values to the affected counties.

TIF extension

- Modifies, as follows, the circumstances under which a county, municipality, or township may extend the term of a tax increment financing arrangement (TIF) by an additional 30 years, as authorized under current law:
 - As an alternative to the existing requirement that the TIF service payments exceed \$1.5 million in the year before the extension is adopted, allows a subdivision to determine that payments will meet the \$1.5 million threshold in a future year of the TIF.
 - Applies a bar that prohibits an extension if the service payments exceeded \$1.5 million in any year preceding the year before the extension is adopted to extensions adopted after 2023. (Current law only applies this bar to extensions adopted after 2020.)
 - Rather than waiting for or satisfying one of the above requirements to amend an existing ordinance or resolution to authorize an extension, allows a subdivision to extend the term of a TIF in the original ordinance or resolution authorizing the TIF, presumably based on the subdivision's determination that the payments will meet the \$1.5 million threshold in the future.
- Applies the changes to pending and completed proceedings.
- There is a "hold harmless" provisions for boards of education.

Impacted city TIF service payment reallocation

- Authorizes the legislative authority of an impacted city, i.e., a city that meets certain urbanization or disaster criteria, to, before July 1, 2024, adopt an ordinance providing that the public improvements directly benefits parcels for which TIF service payments have been used have been sufficiently provided for and reallocating service payments to other public improvements that do not directly benefit the parcels but that contribute to urban redevelopment.

TIF districts- nonperforming parcels

- Requires a township or municipal corporation that, pursuant to authority added by the House, removes a parcel from one tax increment financing (TIF) district and includes them in another to identify the parcels, the original TIF ordinance, and the parcels' value history when applying to the tax commissioner for TIF tax exemptions for the second TIF district.

Fraud reporting

- Exempts a current employee or elected official from being required to complete the training on Ohio's fraud reporting system within 90 days if there is good cause for noncompliance.
- Changes the requirement for certain persons to immediately report fraud, theft in office, or misuse or misappropriation of public money to timely.
- Requires the auditor of state to promptly notify the prosecuting attorney, director of law, village solicitor, or similar chief legal officer of a municipal corporation if a report involves probable theft or fraud, unless the attorney, director, solicitor, or chief legal officer is the perpetrator.
- Specifies that a prosecuting attorney, director of law, village solicitor, or similar chief legal officer, or employees of those, is not required, and does not have an express statutory duty, to report a violation to the auditor of state's fraud-reporting system.

Academic distress commissions- Lorain City Schools

- Dissolves the Lorain City Schools academic distress commission (ADC) and academic improvement plan as of October 1, 2024.
- Upon dissolution of the ADC, requires the chief executive officer to relinquish management and control of the school district to the district board of education and the district superintendent.

Charter school equity funding

- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) to pay an equity supplement to each community school that is not an internet- or computer-based community school in FY 2024 and FY 2025.
- Requires DEW to calculate a community school's equity supplement for a fiscal year by multiplying the school's enrolled ADM by \$400.
- Includes the equity supplement in the calculation of transitional aid for a community school.

Cash payments

- Keeps the Senate's changes in the substitute bill requiring schools to accept cash at athletic and school events, but exempts a qualifying public or chartered nonpublic school or state institution of higher education from the bill's requirements to accept cash payments for tickets and concessions at a school- or institution-affiliated event if the event is conducted at a public facility that is leased by a professional sports team or a privately owned facility.

CAUV formula changes

- Requires that, for farmland in counties that undergo a property tax reappraisal or triennial update in 2023, 2024, or 2025, the land's "current agricultural use value" (CAUV) must equal the average of the value calculated for that tax year and the values that would have been assigned if the land were in a county that underwent a reappraisal or update in each of the preceding two years.

CAUV - Property tax exemption: residential development land

Revises a property tax exemption for residential development land, added by the House, to ensure that any development property that is no longer used as farmland cannot continue to be valued as such for property tax purposes.

School counselor-building and construction

- Reduces from 12 hours to six the proposed training requirements for applicants for a pupil services license in school counseling about the building and construction trades and available apprenticeships.
- Expressly permits members of the building and construction trades to conduct and approve the continuing education required for renewal of a pupil services license in school counseling.

Dropout prevention and recovery e-school funding program

- Changes the deadline by which an eligible internet- or computer-based community school (e-school) must notify the department of its intent to participate in the dropout prevention and recovery e-school funding program by one year, to February 1 of the school year in which the e-school will participate, rather than February 1 of the prior year as in the substitute bill.

Property tax exemption: residential development land

- Revises a property tax exemption for residential development land, added by the House, to ensure that any development property that is no longer used as farmland cannot continue to be valued as such for property tax purposes.

Information sharing between DEW and the State Board of Education

- Permits the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) and the State Board of Education to exchange information and documentation upon request so that they may perform their functions under state and federal law, including sharing proprietary or confidential information.
- Prohibits DEW and the State Board from disclosing the proprietary or confidential information they receive from each other and, furthermore, requires them to adopt safeguards to prevent that disclosure.

Charter school sponsor rating changes

- Requires the department to use the higher of a community school sponsor's academic component score for the schools in the sponsor's portfolio as determined by weighting each school based on enrollment or by weighting each school equally.
- Requires each community school sponsor to submit documentation of adherence to quality practices by May 15 of each year and permits the sponsor to participate in an interview to assess those practices.
- Makes all "exemplary" sponsors eligible for statutory incentives, rather than only sponsors rated "exemplary" for the two most recent school years.
- Excludes from a performance rating of certain sponsors the academic performance of a community school with which the sponsor enters into a contract if the department's Office of School Sponsorship most recently sponsored that school, rather than if the office has ever sponsored that school as in the substitute bill.

Charter school sponsor evaluations framework proposals

- Requires the department, by November 15, 2023, to issue a request for proposals, and by January 1, 2024, select from those proposals a third-party organization to assist in the development of a portfolio-based sponsor evaluation framework to determine performance of community school sponsors.
- Requires the selected organization to work with stakeholders to develop a proposal and submit its proposed framework to the general assembly by June 30, 2024.
- Establishes specific objectives the framework must satisfy.
- Requires the department to post the 2023-2024 evaluation system on its web site not later than October 1, 2023.
- Specifies that the department must only evaluate a sponsor for the 2024-2025 school year if the sponsor received an overall rating of "ineffective" on the sponsor's most recent evaluation or the sponsor is a new sponsor that has not been evaluated previously but permits any other sponsor to choose to be evaluated for that school year.

Disposal of real property

- Defines "appraisal" and "appraiser" for the purposes of the law regarding the voluntary and involuntary disposition of real property owned by a school district, as follows:
 - (1) An "appraisal" is valuation that is less than a year old of real property performed by an appraiser, includes an opinion of the property's fair market value, and is based on reasonable assumptions about the property's use as a school.
 - (2) An "appraiser" is a general real estate appraiser certified under state law who has experience appraising school property and who has a membership in, and a designation from, a nationally recognized organization of real estate appraisers.
- Requires a school district, when it sells real property at a public auction, to advertise the auction on a major commercial web site at least 30 days prior to the auction.
- Permits a district, in an auction for real property, to set a minimum acceptable bid amount that is not greater than the property's appraised fair market value, according to an appraisal.
- Requires the district to disclose the minimum acceptable bid amount to all auction participants.
- Prohibits a district from rejecting the bid of a community school, STEM school, or college-preparatory boarding school, or a private person that proposes to make the property available to such schools, if the school or person complies with requirements for all auction participants regarding proof of funds and similar matters and makes the highest bid.
- Expressly states that a district must comply with its obligations regarding the involuntary disposition of district property prior to selling that property to one of several prescribed entities or exchanging it for other real property.
- Revises current law regarding involuntary disposition of school district property to other public schools (including community, STEM, and college-preparatory boarding schools), to:
 - (1) Expand the definition of "unused school facility."
 - (2) Require districts to offer its unused school facilities to all other public schools in the state by advertising an offer on a major commercial web site and to directly offer those facilities to community schools opening in, relocating to, or adding facilities in the district's territory.
 - (3) Require districts to sell an unused school facility to any other public school in the state for the facility's fair market value, if that school is the only school to notify the district treasurer of its interest in the property.
 - (4) Establish a procedure under which other public schools may challenge the appraised fair market value of an unused school facility included in a district's offer, a group of three appraisers determine the facility's value, and the schools challenging

the value have the option to purchase the facility or bid on it in a public auction based on the new value.

(5) Specify that, if no other public school purchases or leases an unused school facility after an offer is made, that property becomes subject to the requirements regarding involuntary disposition again if, after two years, the district still owns it and it still meets the statutory requirements to be an unused school facility.

(6) Increase from five years to ten years the period that a community, STEM, or college-preparatory boarding school generally is prohibited from selling a property it purchased under the involuntary disposition law.

(7) Permit a school that has purchased an unused school facility to sell it within that ten-year period to an entity that is not a community, STEM, or college-preparatory boarding school if, prior to the expiration of that period, the entity arranges for the property to be used by a community, STEM, or college-preparatory boarding school and does not transfer or sell the property to any other entity.

(8) Prohibit a school district from arranging for any of its unused school facilities to be demolished prior to offering the property in accordance with the law regarding the involuntary disposition of school property.

(9) Require any school property that is an unused school facility under continuing law on or after January 1, 2022, to remain designated as such until the district complies with its obligations under the law regarding the involuntary disposition of that property, unless, prior to the bill's effective date, the district complies with its obligations as they existed prior to that date.

(10) Specify that an offer made by a district under the law regarding the involuntary disposition of property is irrevocable prior to end of statutorily prescribed deadlines.

(11) Permit a community, STEM, or college-preparatory boarding school to notify a district if it identifies a school property that it reasonably believes to be an unused school facility and, if that property is such a facility, requires the district to comply with the law regarding the involuntary disposition of that property.

- Subjects a district to the involuntary disposition law prior to demolishing a building to clear a site for the construction of a replacement facility as part of its facilities construction project with the Facilities Construction Commission.

Academic intervention services for qualifying students

- Requires each school district, community school, and STEM school to provide, directly or through a contracted vendor, academic intervention services, free of cost, to any student enrolled in the district or school that demonstrates a limited level of skill on a state assessment in math, science, or English language arts.
- Requires the department to track and monitor whether students receiving those services are making academic progress toward no longer needing them.
- Requires the department, by November 15 each year, to present a report to the House and Senate education committees, the governor, and the superintendent of public instruction about the schools that are providing academic intervention services provided to students.
- Requires the department to include a student who receives sufficient remediation under the provision in the postsecondary readiness measure used to calculate the College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness component on the state report card.

Appropriations

- Decreases by \$992,541 the FY 2025 earmark in GRF ALI 9 200426, Ohio Educational Computer Network, for the connection of all public school buildings and participating chartered nonpublic schools to the state's education network, to each other, and to the

internet and increases by the same amount the FY 2025 earmark in the same ALI for the activities of designated information technology centers to provide school districts and chartered nonpublic schools with computer-based student and teacher instructional and administrative information services.

Online report cards

- Removes provisions of the Senate substitute bill requiring the department to use an online high school's modified graduation rate in lieu of the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate and report the four-year adjusted cohort rate as data without an assigned performance rating beginning with the report card for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Delays, by one year, a requirement of the Senate substitute bill that requires the department to report a school's modified graduation rate as data without an assigned performance rating from beginning with the report card 2022-2023 school year to the 2023-2024 school year.

Income tax credit for private school tuition

- Modifies the nonrefundable income tax credit for tuition paid to a private school by removing the requirement that the taxpayer's and taxpayer's spouse's total income not exceed \$100,000 to qualify for the credit and by increasing the value of the credit from \$500 to \$1,000 for taxpayers with an income below \$50,000 and from \$1,000 to \$1,500 for taxpayers with an income at or above \$50,000.

FAFSA requirement for graduation

- Reinstates provisions of the as introduced version of the bill that require public and chartered nonpublic school students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to qualify for a high school diploma, unless either:
 - (1) The student's parent or guardian, or the student if the student is at least 18 years old, has submitted a written letter to the student's district or school stating that the student will not complete and submit the FAFSA; or
 - (2) The district or school makes a record describing circumstances that make it impossible or impracticable for the student to complete the FAFSA.

Appalachian Children Coalition

- Appropriates \$1,250,000 in each fiscal year in GRF ALI 336516, Appalachian Children Coalition. Requires these funds to be provided to the Appalachian Children Coalition to address systemic challenges children face in Appalachian Ohio and used as follows:
 - (1) \$500,000 in each fiscal year to provide funding for training, hiring, and retention of entry-level child mental and behavioral health workers in school and health provider settings,
 - (2) \$500,000 in each fiscal year to provide funding for research and facilitation of a publicly accessible database of child wellbeing indicators as well as provide capacity to child-serving entities in the region,
 - (3) \$125,000 in each fiscal year to enhance child mental health outcomes, promote implementation of whole-child models of care, and to expand the mental health workforce in the region, and
 - (4) \$125,000 in each fiscal year to provide funding for prevention programming in the areas of teen suicide, substance misuse, human trafficking, bullying, and child abuse and neglect in the region.

Contribution based benefit cap for SERS retirement benefits

- Incorporates the “anti-spiking” provisions from House Bill 146, which authorizes the establishment of a contribution-based benefit cap (CBBC) in calculating a School Employees Retirement System member's retirement benefit.
- Requires the SERS Board, beginning on and after August 1, 2024, before paying a retirement allowance to calculate a member's CBBC based on the contributions the member has made converted to an annuity and multiplied by a number designated by the Board (the CBBC factor) and reduce the member's retirement allowance to an amount equal to the member's CBBC if the retirement allowance would exceed the CBBC.